

On April 22, 2008, the Board of Environmental Review voted 6-1 to remand to the Department of Environmental Quality, for further analysis, a portion of the air quality preconstruction permit for the proposed Southern Montana Electric Generation and Transmission Cooperative, Inc. (SME) Highwood Generating Station, proposed to be constructed southeast of Great Falls. The Montana Environmental Information Center and the Great Falls-based Citizens for Clean Energy had challenged the Department's best available control technology (BACT) analysis for emissions of fine particulate matter equal to or smaller than 2.5 microns in diameter, known as PM-2.5. The Board has not yet issued a written order, but voted to remand the permit to the Department for SME to conduct a top-down BACT analysis of predicted PM-2.5 emissions from SME's coal-fired circulating fluidized bed (CFB) boiler.